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REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Report of the Executive Director

The present report has been prepared in conformity with a joint format agreed by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund covering the list of issues identified in consultations among United Nations Development Group members. The main issues include: implementation of the reform programme of the Secretary-General and the provisions of the triennial comprehensive policy review; follow-up to international conferences; and humanitarian and disaster relief assistance.

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I. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFORM PROGRAMMES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE PROVISIONS OF THE TRIENNIAL COMPREHENSIVE POLICY REVIEW

A. Structures and mechanisms

1. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has cooperated closely with other partners in the United Nations system to make all efforts, under the leadership of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), to improve existing mechanisms for coordination. These efforts have focused on ensuring participation in instruments and frameworks like the Common Country Assessment (CCA)/United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the Strategic Framework, the sector investment programme (SIP), the sector-wide approach (SWAp), the Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF) and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). The plans of action emanating from the various international conferences, recent Special Sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the outcome of consideration of the Report of the Secretary-General's Panel on United Nations Peace Operations serve to provide further guidelines for better coordination and collaboration.

2. UNDG, with the full and active participation of UNFPA, now has a leading role in the development of mechanisms for improving coordination of field-level United Nations operational activities under the leadership of host Governments. This effort has been considerably strengthened by other partners joining the UNDG on sectors of their functional interest and mandate, for example, the United Nations Educational and Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on matters related to the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative. Such relationships between specialized agencies and the UNDG are expected to strengthen field coordination and synergy, including in specific thematic areas.

3. UNFPA has participated actively in efforts to restructure the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC). A High Level Programme Committee (HLPC) has been set up to provide broad guidance and oversight on coordination and effective programme implementation for the system, within the existing mechanism of the UNDG. These additional responsibilities will optimize the role of the UNDG as a focal point for system-wide issues as can be seen in the UNDG role in the Girls' Education Initiative led by UNICEF and in the Poverty Eradication Initiative led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

4. The methods of work of the UNDG are regularly revised and redesigned with a view to maximizing efficiency and effectiveness. The UNDG annual work plans are also vehicles of advance planning for meetings and help agency representatives to optimize the use of their time, including those at the highest levels. The system of annual reviews of the work of the UNDG

allows for timely assessments of work done and rational analyses of work remaining to be done. This contributes to advancing the results-based management approach that UNFPA and others are operationalizing. The design and implementation of the multi-year funding framework (MYFF) has provided the opportunities to strengthen a results-based approach within the Fund, including strategic planning and management, monitoring, evaluation and accountability. UNFPA has contributed to arrangements for knowledge sharing by active participation in the Programme Knowledge Network, the United Nations Resident Coordinator Network (RCNet) and DevLink, the internet tools that allow UNDG members to learn from experiences and facilitate interactive initiatives and exchanges. DevLink is a new site that went on line in December 2000. It provides substantive support to the United Nations country teams for each of the UNDG priority topics: gender, human rights, girls' education and poverty.

Problems and lessons learned

5. The extent of field-level coordination varies from country to country. In particular, the issue of the sensitivities of the specialized agencies as participants in the resident coordinator system has been raised. While the UNDG has taken initiatives, like promoting the Task Force on the Horn of Africa led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), more needs to be done to create a sense of ownership among the United Nations system members.

6. The role and work of the UNDG are under constant review. Recognizing the potential drawbacks of introducing multiple mechanisms for facilitating its work, the UNDG has instituted an annual review of the UNDG working groups and of the detailed annual work plans for each group. In reviewing its work through the ACC, inter alia, possible sunset clauses have been discussed with a view to streamlining and simplifying the work of the UNDG. The UNDG is also being encouraged to service the wider United Nations system to stimulate greater participation and a sense of ownership. The ACC has made special efforts to prevent overload of the field offices by emphasizing the need for establishing a clear value-added factor for notes, declarations and other guidelines provided to field offices.

7. UNFPA attaches great importance to the review and analysis of its field reports, especially on aspects related to the feedback on matters of coordination. The new format designed for annual reporting encourages country offices to report systematically on progress towards results. Review and analysis of resident coordinator reports and UNFPA field reports allows lessons learned and best practices to be distilled for feedback and wider dissemination. This exercise is specifically aimed at strengthening resident coordinator reports, which are

utilized, inter alia, as a part of the performance review of resident coordinators and country teams. As part of an internal realignment within UNFPA, for better management for results, the Fund is putting in place institutional mechanisms to optimize effective field coordination and regular interactions between its field representatives. UNFPA is also in the process of establishing a knowledge sharing unit at headquarters to strengthen knowledge networking throughout the organization.

Recommendations

8. The Council may wish to:

(a) Take note of the progress of the funds and programmes in the implementation of the triennial comprehensive policy review recommendations;

(b) Take note of the positive developments relating to UNDG activities;

(c) Encourage closer cooperation between UNDG members and the other members of the United Nations system for better coordination.

B. Funding and resources

9. The Executive Board, through its decision 98/24, called for a pledging event in 2000 with a view to increasing the predictability of regular resources and to work towards increasing burden sharing among donors. In 2000, 16 countries announced multi-year pledges. Several countries also announced that they would increase their contributions to UNFPA. Some increases were substantial. The resource position of UNFPA has registered overall improvement. In 2000, contributions to general resources showed an upward trend of 5.1 per cent over 1999. As of 31 December 2000, 102 Governments made written pledges to UNFPA. The year 2000 also saw strong growth in supplementary contributions from Governments. Though supplementary funds are a valuable source of much-needed resources for development, it should be underscored that regular resources are the bedrock of the Fund's programme operations and are essential for maintaining the universal and multilateral nature of its work.

Recommendations

10. The Council may wish to:

(a) Encourage Member States to increase their contributions to the core resources of the funds and programmes;

(b) Encourage multi-year commitments for the achievement of better results-based programme performance.

C. Resident coordinator system

11. UNFPA gives high priority to the assessment of the functioning of the United Nations country team and to the need for UNFPA Representatives to work as an integral part of the team. UNFPA continues to be represented on the bodies that have oversight of the resident coordinator system, including the UNDG Sub-group on Resident Coordinator Issues, the Inter-Agency Panel for the Selection of Resident Coordinators, the Inter-Agency Steering Committee on Resident Coordinator Competency Assessment and the UNDG Sub-group on Training.

12. Efforts within the UNDG continue for strengthening the resident coordinator system. At the same time, UNFPA is also continuing its efforts to have its qualified staff serve as resident coordinators. At present, 32 of the 130 (approximately 25 per cent) occupied resident coordinator posts are held by women. The situation is expected to improve in 2001. Despite the best efforts of all, the number of resident coordinators from outside UNDP remains under 20 per cent of the total.

13. Throughout 2000 the focus of UNFPA efforts in the Sub-group on Resident Coordinator Issues was on improving the management of the pool of resident coordinator candidates and on fine-tuning the competency assessment requirements. The Fund took an active part in formulating the policy for the selection of resident coordinators, including the categorization of the profiles of former resident coordinators, serving resident coordinators, and those deemed to be suitable for selection.

14. Other common issues pertaining to the resident coordinator system included efforts to: better assess the performance of resident coordinators; further professionalize the basis on which new contracts would be given for the selection of a qualified company able to undertake the system-wide competency assessment exercises; and further expand the possibilities for the resident coordinator post to be a genuine career option open to any qualified individual from within the United Nations system. With discussion on these matters still ongoing, the reforms introduced in the resident coordinator system in 1999 took root and the overall process continues to improve. Given that the initial trial period for competency assessment is now at an end, it is timely to look at the adjustments that need to be made. Chief among these is the selection of a company that can most cost-effectively and professionally meet the needs of the funds, agencies and programmes for selecting resident coordinator candidates. In that regard, it would be

desirable to select an international company/organization with methodologies and appraisal techniques closely attuned to the needs and mission of the United Nations.

15. Improvements in the appraisal of resident coordinators was among the adjustments thought desirable for the effective functioning of the resident coordinator system in 2000. This subject was examined by each of the resident coordinator groups and in the respective deliberations UNFPA supported institutionalization of "180 degree feedback" appraisals by the United Nations country teams and a new performance appraisal form for the resident coordinator's annual report. It is hoped that in the coming year these initiatives will become regular features in the assessment process.

16. The UNFPA Training Branch was actively involved in the Inter-Agency Working Group on Training. Through its deliberations and training/orientation work, the Branch contributed to developing the agenda for the induction briefing of first-time resident coordinators that was held in November 2000.

Problems and lessons learned

17. With regard to the need to increase the number of women resident coordinators, UNFPA fully supports a more vigorous approach to accomplish that goal. In that connection, mobility possibilities should be expanded and leadership training offered to qualified women candidates.

Recommendations

18. The Council may wish to:

(a) Reaffirm the need to broaden the pool of resident coordinators and to improve gender balance among resident coordinators;

(b) Emphasize the importance of the annual report and work plan of the resident coordinator;

(c) Encourage greater transparency in the process relating to the placement of resident coordinators.

D. Implementation of the Common Country Assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework

19. UNFPA has participated actively in efforts to strengthen the UNDAF/CCA process. The UNDG goal was to have 32 countries with completed or in-progress UNDAFs by the end of

2000 and a total of 43 countries by the end of 2001. It was envisaged that 57 countries would have completed CCAs by the end of 2001, with a further 55 CCAs in progress. A total of 26 CCA/UNDAFs are scheduled for completion by the end of 2001. The CCA and UNDAF Learning Network was established as a system-wide mechanism through which the CCA and UNDAF processes are reviewed to identify and share lessons and good practices.

20. With the incorporation of the CCA and UNDAF as an integral part of the programming process in UNFPA, the Fund's efforts have focused on reviewing the quality of CCA and UNDAF documents produced thus far and providing feedback to field counterparts as well as to the Learning Network. UNFPA has made a concerted effort to streamline its programming processes to ensure that its country representatives can give the CCA and UNDAF processes the time and resources required to produce quality products. In support of this effort, UNFPA has issued a guidance note to its country offices to ensure that the CCA and UNDAF cover policy and programme areas relevant to the mandate of the Fund so that they provide a sound basis for the development of UNFPA country programmes. UNFPA has also been requested by its Executive Board (decision 2000/12) to establish a working group with its UNDG partners to develop a common country programme approval process and has commenced this effort with UNDP, UNICEF and the World Food programme (WFP). This effort will further strengthen the harmonization of programming processes, including the timely completion of the CCA and UNDAF processes.

21. UNFPA has continued to participate actively in the various committees and subcommittees of the UNDG, including an inter-agency review of delays in the implementation of the CCA and UNDAF and the support requirements for their timely completion.

Problems and lessons learned

22. UNFPA has participated in efforts to review the situation in country offices concerning the difficulties encountered in meeting the original schedule. At a meeting on the issue, UNDP, UNFPA, WFP and UNICEF programme division directors were instructed to prepare an action plan for improving the situation. It was concluded that the demands on the country teams for compliance with individual agency requirements for the development of country programmes left little time for completion of inter-agency and system-wide requirements like CCA/UNDAF. A sense of a lack of ownership of the process and insufficient coordination regarding programme deadlines appear to have contributed to the delays. In some cases, a lack of effective team leadership also contributed to the delays.

23. UNFPA has contributed to the suggestions to improve the process, including the need for progressive action and follow-up by regional directors and for greater support to the UNDG office for intensive monitoring and monthly status reporting through the RCNet. The UNDG Working Group on Harmonization of Programming Approval Processes, led by UNFPA, will propose concrete steps for streamlining processes and for strengthening the integration CCA/UNDAF into the respective programming procedures. Increased use is being made of best practices, including the use of successful CCA/UNDAFs as models for other countries. Also, further reviews are being undertaken to identify the characteristics of a successful CCA/UNDAF process.

Recommendations

24. The Council may wish to:

(a) Take note of the progress on implementation of the UNDAF/CCA process;

(b) Urge funds and programmes to continue efforts to streamline and simplify their programming processes and to reduce the time needed to carry them out;

E. Harmonization of programmes and procedures

25. UNFPA has participated actively in UNDG efforts to ensure that qualifying programme countries have harmonized programme cycles. By the end of 2000, some 93 countries had harmonized programme cycles; by 2004, 90 per cent of the total number of programme countries will be harmonized. The harmonization will benefit programme operationalization and impact at the country level.

26. UNFPA has participated in UNDG efforts to support harmonization in several ways, including through guidance notes to field staff, for example, the initial UNDG note on "Definitions of Processes and Products for Enhancing UNDG Programme Collaboration" and the subsequent note on "Preparation of Joint Programmes/Projects" issued in July 2000.

27. Efforts are under way to revise the procedures for joint mid-term reviews of country programmes/UNDAFs, and some are currently being tested in the field by a number of country teams. It is expected that the revised procedures will be circulated in early 2001. The harmonization of programme cycles and the use of joint mid-term reviews is expected to reduce the demand and burden on programme countries.

28. Within the UNDG, UNFPA has contributed to the focused effort to review, simplify and harmonize administrative procedures for national project personnel (NPP) hired by the different

United Nations agencies. An ad hoc UNDG group is reviewing the current practices and procedures of selected United Nations country teams, including, for example, salary scales, daily subsistence allowance (DSA) rates, contractual and recruitment modalities, insurance coverage and performance assessment methods. Concerted efforts are being made to finalize the guidance notes and to disseminate them as early as possible to all United Nations country teams.

Problems and lessons learned

29. Although considerable harmonization has been achieved, much remains to be done to ease the burden on country offices and national counterparts. Delays in the CCA/UNDAF roll-out have constituted missed opportunities for developing more coordinated programmes. UNFPA continues efforts to explore ways by which existing procedures and practices can be further simplified, while maintaining appropriate levels of accountability and quality. Areas of focus include simplification of documentation, streamlining of reporting requirements, and the coordination of in-country programming processes such as mid-term reviews, country programme preparation and programme implementation.

Recommendations

30. The Council may wish to:

(a) Take note of the improved degree of harmonization achieved by UNDG members;

(b) Encourage continued efforts to simplify and harmonize administrative and programming procedures and to carry out joint mid-term reviews;

(c) Request UNDG organizations to intensify efforts to continue monitoring the harmonization of country programmes;

(d) Urge UNDG organizations to work towards greater consistency in all aspects of the programme cycle.

F. Gender mainstreaming and gender balance

31. UNFPA has cooperated fully in the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2000. UNFPA continues to focus on the ICPD

mandate of advancing gender equality and equity, the empowerment of women, the elimination of all types of violence against women, and ensuring women's ability to control their fertility. With the MYFF, UNFPA has now specifically identified gender equality and women's empowerment as an organizational goal, while continuing to mainstream gender throughout its programme. The MYFF provides an important tool for monitoring results in this area. Specific activities have included the following:

(a) Following up on the implementation and utilization of UNFPA guidelines on support for mainstreaming gender issues in population and development programmes to ensure that gender perspectives have been appropriately reflected in all three core programme areas, namely, reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health; population and development strategies; and advocacy;

(b) Revising the programme activities classsification system to better track and reflect the Fund's allocation of resources for gender concerns in the Fund's three core programme areas;

(c) Strengthening efforts at the country level to build national capacities on gender issues through its Country Technical Services Teams (CSTs), including finalizing a comprehensive training manual on gender, population and development to facilitate such national capacity-building;

(d) Conducting studies on such issues as eradication of female genital mutilation (FGM); violence against women girls and children, and the socialization of boys; strategies for greater involvement of men in reproductive and sexual health matters; and the impact of HIV/AIDS on women.

32. Responding to the need to address a key emerging issue, UNFPA has developed a manual on gender-based violence for health providers. The manual will help bridge an existing gap in the provision of reproductive health services.

33. At the inter-agency level, UNFPA has actively participated in and contributed to the Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality (IACWGE) Task Force on Mainstreaming Gender Equality into the Budget Process within the United Nations system. UNFPA served as the task manager on IACWGE for processing and analysing data in order to review the gender focal point function in the United Nations system. The initial findings of this study served as an input to the Beijing +5 process.

34. UNFPA participated in and contributed to the preparations and processes leading to the General Assembly Special Session on Beijing+5. UNFPA prepared the operational tool for use by countries for reporting on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination

against Women (CEDAW). The Fund organized a round table meeting on human rights treaty bodies and human rights approaches to women's health, with a focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

35. UNFPA is a member of all inter-agency working groups. A proposal was prepared on specific steps to be taken to implement the Security Council resolution on women as peace builders and victims of armed conflict. The Fund has provided inputs to the IACWGE Sub-group on Best Practices, including organizing a panel discussion on the topic as part of the Beijing+5 activities and publishing a document on best practices in gender mainstreaming within the framework of population and development.

36. UNFPA chairs the UNDG working group that is reviewing the use of the CCA indicators framework in some 30 countries and is assessing, inter alia, how and to what extent gender has been mainstreamed in the use of indicators at the country level.

37. UNFPA provided support to the International Women's Health Coalition, a non-governmental organization (NGO), which carried out several advocacy activities, including the mobilization of other NGOs and women's groups for inputs to the Beijing+5 process.

38. As regards gender balance within UNFPA, the Fund has always emphasized the recruitment of qualified women for professional positions. As a result of this commitment and the Fund's concerted efforts, currently 50 per cent of all professional staff at UNFPA are women. This includes five women in D2 level posts out of a total number of eight Fund-wide D2 posts. UNFPA has developed programme guidelines with a strong emphasis on the incorporation of gender concerns into all activities. The guidelines clearly identify goals, tasks and accountability for gender mainstreaming at all levels. They are based on the premise that operationalization of the principles of gender equality and equity and the empowerment of women is essential for securing and guaranteeing both women's and men's reproductive and sexual health rights.

Problems and lessons learned

39. Given the nature of its mandate and the focus of its programmes, UNFPA is fully aware of the importance of ensuring gender balance among UNFPA Representatives in the field. The Fund will therefore continue to make efforts to recruit qualified women to serve as its country representatives.

Recommendations:

40. The Council may wish to:

(a) Take note of UNFPA achievements in the area of gender mainstreaming;

(b) Call for further efforts to accelerate progress in this area, drawing on experiences gained and lessons learned after ICPD+5.

G. Capacity-building

41. UNFPA contributed to the preparation of the ACC guidance note on capacity-building approved in April 2000. This has been circulated to all country representatives. It provides an agreed set of guidance elements from the United Nations, designed to highlight the importance of capacity-building in the operational activities of the United Nations system.

Problems and lessons learned

42. UNFPA has consistently focused on capacity-building at the country level. Work in this area is complex, and UNFPA has made every effort, especially during the ICPD+5 review process, to distil lessons learned and share them with other partners in the system. The UNFPA CSTs have played a key role in strengthening capacity building at the country level. The Fund continues to work with a broad range of partners utilizing various collaborative arrangements, including participatory techniques for capacity assessment, monitoring and evaluation.

43. UNFPA supports its field staff in capacity-building activities through, inter alia, appropriate guidance and training. The Fund has consistently supported increasing inter-agency and thematic evaluations and assessments in this area.

Recommendations

44. The Council may wish to:

(a) Encourage the sharing of capacity-building case studies and evaluations;

(b) Encourage sharing of capacity-building frameworks and methodologies;

(c) Urge further efforts for continued inter-agency thematic evaluations in this area.

H. Common premises and services

45. To date, a total of 37 United Nations Houses have been inaugurated or designated by the Secretary-General. The UNDG Sub-group on Common Premises and Services regularly reviews proposals from country teams and has provided advice and guidance to them in their efforts to establish common premises/United Nations Houses. In this regard, the Sub-group reviewed 51 proposals in 1998 and 58 in 1999. The Sub-group undertook 13 field missions in 1999.

46. For the year 2000, the Executive Boards of the four UNDG Executive Committee member organizations set a target of establishing five United Nations Houses. To achieve this target of five new United Nations Houses in 2000 and an additional five in 2001, the Sub-group has worked closely with the country teams to identify potential opportunities for establishing United Nations Houses and to submit proposals to the Sub-group for review. During 2000, the pace of proposals being submitted to the Sub-group has slowed somewhat, primarily because the relatively easy opportunities for establishing United Nations Houses have already been examined and United Nations Houses designated in those locations where the criteria have been met during the course of 1998-1999. Recognizing this, the Sub-group has made a special effort to identify opportunities for the establishment of United Nations Houses. In June 2000, the Sub-group identified 43 countries which might have the potential for the establishment of United Nations Houses. A limited number of replies were received in response to requests to resident coordinators for the possible establishment of United Nations Houses and new proposals have been included in the pipeline.

47. The year 2000 witnessed further improvements in developing standardized documents and general guidelines to assist country teams in implementing the United Nations House Programme. It is expected that these guidelines and standardized documents will assist country teams in the process of negotiation and consensus building amongst the UNDG partners at the field level. The Sub-group intends to further refine these guidelines and the standardized documents to assist country teams in identifying opportunities to establish United Nations Houses and common services.

48. During 2000, the Sub-group reviewed a total of 32 proposals[1] and undertook missions to 6 countries. It is expected that by the end of 2000, there will be seven new United Nations

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1 Angola, Barbados, Botswana, Chad, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Mongolia, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Panama, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Suriname, The Gambia, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, Viet Nam, and Yemen.

Houses designated by the Secretary-General, thus exceeding the year's target of five United Nations Houses. The details are as follows:

United Nations Houses/Year 2000	Status
• The Gambia	Designated/Inaugurated on 28 April 2000
• Bahrain	Submitted to the Secretary-General for designation
• Ecuador	Meets the criteria of United Nations House, being submitted to the Secretary-General's office for designation
• Botswana	Ditto
• Namibia	Ditto
• Slovakia	Ditto
• Trinidad and Tobago	Ditto

49. Based on the ACC Guidelines on the Administrative Management of the Resident Coordinator covering Common Premises and Services, and through the Management Group on Services and Premises, the UNDG Sub-group has been developing tools and guidance on the implementation of common services. The Sub-group has been examining ways of working with country offices and encouraging country teams to subscribe to the principle of sharing services as a matter of policy, especially in those instances where there is a demonstrated cost advantage for the United Nations system. As a first step, during 1999, comprehensive information on the current status of common services in country offices has been collected through an in-depth survey. These data have been used to establish a common services database providing comprehensive and analytical information on various aspects of common services. A consolidated lease management system has been established through the use of Aperture software. This was developed during 1997 and 1998 and was completed in 1999. A common database allows the sharing of information among the four UNDG Executive Committee member organizations, facilitating the management of country office premises.

50. As regards activities and achievements in 2000, as a follow-up to the survey on common services, a workshop on common services was organized by the UNDG in March 2000. Like the common services survey, the workshop was funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID). Twenty-seven senior operations managers from the four UNDG Executive Committee member organizations participated in the workshop. The main purposes of this workshop were to review the results of the survey; to evaluate experience to date; and to develop draft operational guidelines for the establishment and enhancement of effective and efficient common services operations at the country level.

51. On the basis of information and best practices provided by operations managers from the United Nations system, draft operational guidelines were produced in April 2000 and approved by the Management Group in May 2000. These draft guidelines were the result of a multi-level consultation process with country teams and agency headquarters. They were refined and disseminated to country teams for comments in June 2000. In September 2000, the operational guidelines were presented to and endorsed by the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) Working Group and were approved by the CCPOQ at its September session. The guidelines will be incorporated in the ACC Guidelines on Administrative Management.

52. To maintain the momentum on common services, steps are currently being taken to facilitate the implementation of common services at the country level. Efforts are underway to secure funding for a follow-up phase with the objective of both field-testing the guidelines and implementing common services in eight pilot countries. A concept paper was submitted to DFID and a positive response has been received. If funding is secured, implementation would begin in early 2001.

53. Updating and further enhancement of the Aperture system was undertaken during 2000. In addition, the production of analytical management reports has been an ongoing effort during the course of 2000. Currently, the Aperture team is focusing on:

- Fine-tuning the maintenance procedures to improve the process of users' data entry;
- Ensuring that data are regularly updated by users in order to strengthen the accuracy of the management reports;
- Enhancing the database to extend its capability to include not only leases but also space plans and layouts for possible use by country offices;
- Improving the quality of reporting by refining the information fields of the database.

Problems and lessons learned

54. The conclusions on common premises and services as presented to the governing bodies of the UNDG Executive Committee member organizations in early 1999 in the "Progress Report on the United Nations House Programme" (document DP/1999/CRP.5) remain valid.

Recommendations

55. The Council may wish to:

(a) Take note of the approach of UNDG partners to common premises and services;

(b) Urge greater efforts towards shared management, transparency, accountability and cost-effectiveness and encourage further progress in these areas.

I. Cooperation with the World Bank

56. The Fund works closely with the World Bank on a number of global and country activities. Examples of UNFPA/World Bank global collaboration include the Safe Motherhood Initiative, which aims to mobilize support to help countries achieve the ICPD goal of reducing maternal mortality by one half of the 1990 levels by the year 2000 and a further one half by 2015; health sector reform, especially in relation to strategies for participation in SWAps that will help ensure that prominence is given to population, reproductive health and gender concerns; and, with the World Bank Institute, training programmes on population and reproductive health for agency staff and nationals from partner countries.

57. At the country level, UNFPA collaborates with the World Bank on many initiatives, including the procurement of contraceptive supplies, training of personnel and the supply of equipment. UNFPA and the World Bank collaborate in providing technical assistance for carrying out population censuses and surveys, and jointly promote the analysis and use of the results in national policies, plans and programmes.

58. In June 2000, UNFPA held a major consultation with the World Bank to explore areas of enhanced cooperation at the country level in sub-Saharan Africa. One outcome of the consultation was a letter of intent to proceed with pilot testing of expanded collaboration on population and development, reproductive health and gender issues in selected African countries.

Problems and lessons learned

59. UNFPA has made every effort to establish a regular information flow and exchange of best practices in the context of its enhanced relationship with the World Bank. UNFPA is aware that the need for greater review of experiences and lessons learned has become more pronounced, and is working on better ways to optimizing such exchange.

Recommendations

60. The Council may wish to:

(a) Take note of the efforts of UNDG member organizations to strengthen collaboration with the World Bank;

(b) Urge greater efforts to ensure compatibility between the programming frameworks of the World Bank and the United Nations system.

J. Monitoring and evaluation

61. In 2000, UNFPA contributed to several inter-agency efforts to coordinate and improve monitoring and evaluation activities and also undertook a number of initiatives to strengthen its own capacity in monitoring and evaluation, with an emphasis on a results-based management approach. The operationalization of the logical framework approach (logframe) is strengthening the Fund's monitoring and evaluation at the country level.

62. All headquarters staff have been oriented in results-based management, including monitoring and evaluation techniques. A critical review of UNFPA programming guidelines was undertaken to identify ways to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation aspects therein. Apart from pinpointing those sections of the guidelines where monitoring and evaluation considerations should be inserted or elaborated, the review underscored the need to emphasize the importance of harnessing lessons from past programme achievements and processes. In addition, the need for practical tools and guidance to facilitate results-based programme management, monitoring and evaluation was highlighted. These findings and other feedback are key inputs to the revision of the guidelines.

63. A technical workshop was held in which members of the UNFPA evaluation network, CST advisers and headquarters technical staff assessed experiences with the application of the logframe approach in UNFPA programmes and reached a consensus on its correct application to define and measure results. Workshop participants also reached agreement on the priority components of the monitoring and evaluation toolkit to be prepared by the Fund's Office of Oversight and Evaluation and other evaluation network members. Since then, a concerted effort has been made to develop those tools and most of them will be disseminated in early 2001.

64. Two training events with a specific focus on programme and country-office management were conducted, one in Africa and the other in Asia. These training workshops, each of which was attended by around 30 programme staff from UNFPA country offices, provided training on both the substantive and the organizational aspects of monitoring and evaluation. The opportunity was also taken to alert staff to the findings and lessons learned from external and

internal audits and other oversight activities, with a view to improving internal control and accountability.

65. With regard to inter-agency collaboration, UNFPA assumed leadership in a task group within the UNDG Sub-group on Harmonization that prepared a set of procedures for conducting joint mid-term reviews at the country level. These guidelines, which aim to provide a framework for such joint undertakings within the United Nations country team, are being field tested in a few pilot countries identified by the UNDG. Together with other United Nations partner organizations, UNFPA is participating in a peer review of the evaluation function within UNICEF. The Fund will also participate in an effort initiated by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) to promote knowledge sharing in evaluation.

Problems and lessons learned

66. The logframe approach can and should be promoted as a key programme monitoring and evaluation tool. It is also a valuable instrument for implementing results-based management.

67. The emphasis on accountability may be perceived as requiring an inordinate volume of reporting. It is therefore important to focus reporting requirements on the key elements that would meet accountability and quality assurance needs.

68. It should be noted that SWAps and joint programming can present challenges to results measurement and attribution.

69. The value of participatory approaches to evaluation should be underscored. Such approaches can promote ownership of evaluation findings by partners and facilitate follow-up to recommendations.

Recommendations

70. The Council may wish to:

(a) Take note of UNFPA efforts to strengthen its capacity in monitoring and evaluation;

(b) Emphasize the need for United Nations country teams to coordinate and streamline reporting on results;

(c) Urge United Nations organizations to collaborate on staff training, including training of national counterparts and other Government staff, in matters related to results-based monitoring and evaluation.

K. Indicators

71. UNFPA has always recognized that measuring results and achievements is one of the most important factors for assessing the value of programmes to the programme countries. UNFPA is the chair of the UNDG ad hoc inter-agency group that is reviewing the use of CCAs at country level, including an assessment of the use of indicators in the CCAs. The first phase of this work included a request for information from United Nations country offices on the current status of their CCA and on the processes used to develop the indicators framework. UNFPA is assisting in the preparation of documentation requested for a joint session of the Executive Boards of UNDG member organization for assessing progress in this area. Further action will depend on the guidance provided by the Member States.

II. FOLLOW-UP TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

72. UNFPA attaches great importance to the follow-up to international conferences, summits and the Special Sessions of the United Nations General Assembly. The Fund is deeply committed to the advancement of the agendas of the major United Nations conferences of the 1990s and collaborates with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system to advocate for and support the implementation of the respective programmes, platforms and plans for action adopted at these conferences. UNFPA has also contributed to and participated in the five-year conference reviews, advocating in particular for the integration of population, reproductive health and gender issues in development programmes.

73. UNFPA is the lead agency for implementing the ICPD Programme of Action. In addition to focusing on the ICPD mandate, UNFPA has supported follow-up to the other major United Nations conferences, particularly in areas related to its own mandate, including reproductive health; gender equality and women's empowerment; infant, child and maternal mortality reduction; HIV/AIDS prevention; poverty eradication; strengthening partnerships with civil society; and mobilizing resources for population and development programmes.

74. UNFPA plays a major role in advocating for and assisting countries in achieving the ICPD goals and the key actions agreed at the ICPD+5 review held in 1999. Through its country and intercountry programmes, UNFPA assists countries in implementing and monitoring

progress towards conference goals in such areas as basic education for all, especially girls; primary health care, including reproductive health; basic social services for all; emergency assistance; food security; environmental protection; human rights; human settlements; and poverty eradication.

75. As Chair of the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All (BSSA), UNFPA collaborates with other United Nations agencies and organizations to strengthen the system's follow-up mechanisms for delivering coordinated assistance at country and regional levels. As part of the BSSA Task Force, UNFPA maintains close contacts with other United Nations initiatives, taking into account the commitments and recommendations of the respective programmes, platforms and plans of action of the ICPD, the World Social Summit, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the World Summit for Children, the Education for All Conference, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the World Conference on Human Rights, the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and the World Food Summit.

76. The ACC Task Force provides coordinated support to the resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams to enable them to better assist countries in developing country-specific policies, plans and programmes to attain conference goals. In October 2000, the Task Force completed new and/or revised Guidelines for the United Nations Resident Coordinator System in the following areas: adolescent sexual and reproductive health; basic education with special attention to gender disparities; maternal mortality reduction; reproductive health; and HIV/AIDS. UNFPA is actively involved in the reform initiatives of the Secretary-General, and through the UNDG actively contributed to the preparation of the action strategies on halving extreme poverty and girls' education. UNFPA also chairs the UNDG working group on the use of CCA indicators framework for monitoring progress towards global conference goals.

77. UNFPA provided key inputs to the Beijing+5 review process. At the preparatory meetings, the Fund played an active role in ensuring the inclusion of ICPD+5 agreements in the final report. UNFPA also provided financial support for the Women's Indicators and Statistics Database (Wistat) developed by the United Nations Statistics Division, and for the publication of *The World's Women 2000: Trends and Statistics*, a document prepared in conjunction with the Beijing+5 review.

78. UNFPA is also working collaboratively with key United Nations agencies and other relevant partners in the follow-up to UNCED through the Task Manager system, including global initiatives in the areas of basic social services, ageing, gender, youth, health, human rights, education, HIV/AIDS, food security and sustainable development to highlight the linkages between population and reproductive health, a higher quality of life, poverty reduction and the provision of an enabling environment. In particular, special arrangements and new resources are

being sought in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for a global initiative on population and environment linkages with special emphasis on gender concerns. In the context of UNCED+10, the challenge is to launch initiatives that deal more effectively with the complex linkages between population, poverty and the environment.

79. UNFPA continues to seek new ways to improve coordination and collaboration through such system-wide exercises as the CCA and UNDAF, as well as the CDF, while highlighting the interlinkages of UNCED and ICPD+5 areas of concern. UNFPA is also continuing its close collaboration with the Population and Statistics Divisions of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. This included co-organizing the ICPD+5 review with the Population Division. The Fund continues its collaboration with the Population Division and other concerned agencies on international migration. The Fund's collaboration with the Statistics Division seeks to promote country-level capacity building in the area of data collection and analysis and the strengthening of national statistical systems, especially in relation to population censuses and surveys. UNFPA has underscored the important need for reliable data and indicators for monitoring progress towards achieving conference goals.

80. Within the Fund's policy framework, prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV/AIDS, continues to be an integral component of reproductive health. At country level, UNFPA works closely with United Nations partners, international agencies and national counterparts and NGOS to provide support for STI/HIV/AIDS prevention. HIV infection prevention forms a significant part of UNFPA support in most country programmes. The level of support has increased over the years. For example, in 1999, HIV/AIDS prevention interventions were supported in 138 countries (compared to 131 countries in 1998 and 41 countries in 1991). The interventions include prevention activities focusing on young people in 133 countries and information, education and communication (IEC) projects/activities in 131 countries. In 132 countries UNFPA supported training and awareness-building interventions aimed at reproductive health service providers, health personnel and counsellors, teachers, women leaders and community leaders, including parliamentarians. The Fund also provides support for the provision of male and female condoms.

81. UNFPA is committed to protecting one of the most vulnerable segments of the population -- youth and adolescents. Advocacy and IEC activities aimed at behaviour change amongst young men and women will continue to be an essential part of the Fund's work in HIV/AIDS prevention. Adolescents, whether in or out of school, need to be given the knowledge and life skills to make responsible decisions and positive choices in life. UNFPA is contributing towards this end through its support for: developing education curricula, including

information and modules on reproductive health and HIV/AIDS, gender issues, sexuality and family life; improving access to information, counselling and clinical services; and promoting greater participation of youth in advocacy efforts.

82. As one of the seven cosponsors of UNAIDS, UNFPA has a close and collaborative relationship with UNAIDS. UNFPA participates actively in the UNAIDS theme groups at the country level and has chaired these groups in a number of countries.

Problems and lessons learned

83. Coordination of the follow-up to conferences and summits has increasingly favoured thematic approaches. One of the overarching goals has been poverty eradication. This has served to create a very wide set of goals and targets, calling for extra efforts to create guidelines for specific areas of action and effective programme implementation at the country level. National leadership is vital for conference follow-up and UNFPA is making every effort to ensure that follow-up activities are undertaken with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, particularly Governments.

84. In all these efforts, the sharing of lessons learned among the UNDG partners is essential. UNFPA is committed to the development of a consistent set of indicators within the context of the CCA process and better knowledge sharing through improved reporting. These steps are expected to support a more meaningful assessment of progress in achieving conference goals.

85. UNFPA is aware of the need for political support and adequate financial resources for the follow-up to conferences, and is focusing its efforts on these objectives.

Recommendations

86. The Council may wish to:

(a) Note the progress made by UNDG partners in the integrated follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits;

(b) Urge all members of the resident coordinator system to play their full role in the follow-up to conferences, including reflecting the progress achieved in their annual reports;

(c) Re-emphasize the importance of monitoring the achievements of all conference goals;

(d) Call upon Member States to make available adequate resources for the full implementation of United Nations conferences and summits.

III. HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

87. UNFPA has continued its work in the area of emergencies, keeping in view the fact that the Council was unable to agree on a concluding document at its last substantive session. The Fund provides support for reproductive health in emergency and crisis situations on the basis that the reproductive health needs of all people must be met and that people in conflict/emergency situations, like those in normal/peace situations, have the right to reproductive health. UNFPA therefore seeks to ensure that all individuals, regardless of their status, condition or geographic location, have access to reproductive health services.

88. Since 1994, the Fund has been very active, within the scope of its mandate and limited resources, in focusing international attention on issues of reproductive health and rights in emergency and crisis situations. Currently, UNFPA has a sizeable portfolio of projects in operation in this area. The Fund also has a wealth of experience in data collection, analysis and use that can be made available in emergency situations. In many cases, UNFPA has been able to provide the necessary demographic data for the development of humanitarian needs assessments as well as for sectoral planning for rehabilitation. UNFPA is now active in needs assessments led by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and in supporting relief-intervention monitoring systems through the establishment of basic indicators and implementation of sentinel surveillance systems. These database development activities, which are a standard part of UNFPA-supported programmes, are increasingly in demand in emergency and crisis situations.

89. UNFPA also addresses violence against women and seeks to ensure that reproductive health is part of health-sector rehabilitation. More recently, UNFPA has started a number of activities aiming at the provision of reproductive health services for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

90. UNFPA fully supports all activities initiated by the Secretary-General to protect all United Nations staff members and humanitarian assistance personnel in emergency and other areas of United Nations work. In 2000, UNFPA became a full member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Humanitarian Affairs (IASC). As a result, UNFPA is participating more fully in all humanitarian-related meetings, fora and donor consultations.

Problems and lessons learned

91. Despite the achievements of UNFPA activities in emergency and crisis situations, the Fund's impact in this area is constrained by the limited success in mobilizing funds for projects included in the consolidated appeals. Greater attention needs to be focused on making development assistance applicable to humanitarian emergencies and crisis situations, including addressing certain specific issues such as gender concerns and reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health.

Recommendations

92. The Council may wish to:

(a) Reaffirm the need for special protection measures for all vulnerable people in conflict situations, especially women and girls;

(b) Call for all possible measures to protect United Nations staff and respect the privileges and immunities granted under international law;

(c) Urge measures for timely responses to provide immediate support for reproductive health and data needs in emergency and crisis situations, and encourage the efforts made by UNFPA in this area;

(d) Take note of UNFPA membership in the IASC;

(e) Encourage UNFPA efforts to provide reproductive health services to IDPs.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

93. The Executive Board may wish to:

1. Take note of the present report;

2. Decide to transmit it to the Economic and Social Council, together with the comments and guidance provided by delegations at the present session.

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